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MAP Advisory

From: Department of Public Health, Medication Administration Program (MAP)

To: MAP Administrators and Coordinators

Date: April 1, 2020

Subject: Rescue Inhalers, Epinephrine Auto-Injectors and Oxygen in Community Programs
during the COVID-19 State of Emergency

The COVID-19 public health emergency continues to produce an extraordinary demand on the Commonwealth's healthcare system. In light of the shortage of both nursing and Medication Administration (MAP) Certified staff available to administer medications in Community Programs during the emergency, it has become challenging for Community Programs participating in MAP to meet the needs of individuals whose health conditions require immediate administration of rescue inhalers, epinephrine auto-injectors or oxygen for treatment of acute symptoms.

Pursuant to an Order issued by the Commissioner of Public Health, for the duration of the emergency, non-MAP Certified staff of Community Programs are authorized to possess and administer rescue inhalers, epinephrine auto-injectors and oxygen to individuals in Community Programs under the following conditions:

- Medications subject to this guidance may only be administered pursuant to an existing patient prescription and matching health care provider order.
 - If an individual is receiving the medication pursuant to an initial prescription and order, the medication must be administered by licensed or MAP Certified staff.
- Prior to receiving access to, taking custody of, or administering any of the medications authorized by this order, participating staff must receive training from a licensed nurse regarding, but not limited to, the following:
 - storage, handling, administration and disposal of the medication(s);
 - emergency protocols; and
 - the individual's specific needs.

- Any rescue inhaler, epinephrine auto-injector or oxygen which is to be administered pursuant to this order shall be kept in a secure storage area, separate from the Community Program's MAP Drug Storage area.
- Administration of these medications by participating staff, pursuant to the accompanying order, must be documented separately from the Community Program's Medication Administration Record, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - The name of the medication;
 - The participating staff administering;
 - The individual to whom the medication is administered;
 - The date and time of administration;
 - The dose administered; and
 - Any emergency procedures required after administration.
- Documentation must be kept confidential and be available upon clinical review by the service provider, DDS, DMH or DCF MAP coordinator and/or Drug Control Program.

All applicable statutes, regulations and MAP advisories not inconsistent with the Commissioner's Order and this advisory remain in effect.

Please direct any questions or comments about this advisory to MAP at DCP.DPH@state.ma.us.

Additionally, please visit DPH's website that provides up-to-date information on COVID-19 in Massachusetts: <https://www.mass.gov/2019coronavirus>.